

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE
TRUMP PRESIDENCY AND ITS
IMPACT ON MINORITY COMMU-
NITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you, Congressman VEASEY, Congressman MCEACHIN and Congresswoman PLASKETT, for organizing tonight's special order hour on environmental justice and Trump's 100 days: "What do we have to lose?" I'd also like to thank Chair RICHMOND for his tireless leadership as the CBC continues to be the conscience of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we have a lot to lose under this administration—who at every turn—wants to roll back protections for our communities and for our environment. And make no mistake: communities of color are most impacted by these decisions and often bear the brunt of climate change and pollution.

In my home district, West Oakland residents are disproportionately exposed to dirty air pollution that is 90 times higher than the average Californian. 90 times. As a result, many West Oakland residents experience more asthma attacks, heart failures and strokes. On average, West Oakland residents have a higher death rate than other Californians just because of where they live. This is a shame and a disgrace. But these inequalities are not new.

In 2013, the American Academy of Allergy and Asthma found that one in six African American children and one in nine Latino children suffered from asthma compared to just 1 in 15 white children. These numbers are unacceptable and they should be a wake-up call to all of us to do more to fight for environmental justice. But with the current administration we must be ready for an uphill battle.

Last weekend marked President Trump's 100 days in office—which is really just 100 days of chaos, corruption, and dysfunction. In fact, the Trump administration has shown in the past 100 days that they are more committed to padding their pockets than protecting our planet. In three months, they have:

Approved the Keystone pipeline

Approved the Dakota Access Pipeline

Proposed devastating cuts to the EPA

And allowed dumping of coal mining waste into our streams.

And with every executive order rolling back President Obama's progress on climate change issues, the current administration lives up to its belief that saving our planet is "a waste of [America's] money." But I stand here today to say "Not on our watch."

Our children's air, drinking water and futures depend on our ability to hold corporations accountable for their emissions and waste.

For some in our country, this is literally a matter of life and death, as communities of color are more likely to live near polluting facilities or be ignored when they notice high levels of lead in their water systems. We are all connected to our environment. It impacts everyone. It is time we recognize that an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, the past 100 days have shown us that this will be a long and arduous battle.

But we cannot afford to get tired—our very existence is at stake. We must continue to build a movement that can fight back against the constant attacks on our communities and on our planet. That's why we're here today as members of the Congressional Black Caucus: to show unified resistance by fighting for our communities, our environment, and especially our planet.

RECOGNIZING DR. CLIFF L. WOOD

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Cliff L. Wood, who will retire from his position as President of Rockland Community College in Suffern, New York, this June.

Dr. Wood has dedicated more than 50 years of service to community college education, having served in senior management positions at five institutions. In his 13 years as President of Rockland Community College, Dr. Wood has spearheaded several important initiatives including a subsidized childcare center for students and teachers and a new technology center, and has overseen growth in the College's enrollment, community involvement and workforce development. His tireless efforts at the College have helped improve the lives of thousands of students.

In addition to his work at Rockland Community College, Dr. Wood has volunteered his leadership to many organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Rockland Holocaust Museum & Study Center, Rockland Business Association, and Rockland Economic Development Corporation. He served as President of the New York Community College Association of Presidents, and is a member of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Wood's many accomplishments in higher education, economic development and civic involvement have had an undeniably positive impact on the communities he has served. I commend him for his outstanding work, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for his five decades of dedicated service.

MAHAM SEWANI SELECTED TO
REPRESENT TEXAS AT CON-
GRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL
LEADERS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maham Sewani of Sugar Land, for being chosen to represent Texas as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

Maham was nominated for this position thanks to her excellent academic record and desire to enter the medical profession. Through this program, she will meet some important leaders in the medical field, including

Nobel Prize winners and top medical school deans. The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is hosted to help motivate the top students in the country to pursue their desired careers in the medical field. Maham is a student at Awty International School and a member of its debate team.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Maham Sewani for being selected for this honor. We are extremely proud and expect great things from her in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW
BUTSON ON HIS OFFER OF AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACAD-
EMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Matthew Butson of Metamora, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Matthew's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2021. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Matthew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2021. While attending St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio, Matthew was a member of the National Honor Society, as well as serving on student council and as class vice president his senior year.

Throughout high school, Matthew participated in football and basketball, serving as co-captain of the football team his senior year. I am confident that Matthew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Matthew Butson on the offer of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Matthew will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on May 1, 2017 due to a family medical issue. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA for rollcall vote 237, YEA for rollcall vote 238, and YEA for rollcall vote 239.